

October 24, 2013

Dear Michigan Hospital CEO:

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) encourage hospitals to ensure healthcare personnel (HCP) are vaccinated to protect patients, staff, and visitors from influenza and pertussis. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) recommends](#) all HCP receive a single dose of tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) vaccine as soon as feasible if they have not previously received it, regardless of the time since their last tetanus-diphtheria (Td) vaccine. It is also recommended all HCP receive influenza vaccine each year. MDCH recently conducted a follow-up survey to the 2011 survey on influenza and Tdap vaccination policies for employees.

Based on preliminary data from 138 hospitals (response rate: 83 percent), almost two-thirds (65 percent) of survey respondents currently protect everyone in their facilities from contracting influenza by having a mandatory flu vaccination policy for all employees. The survey shows notable improvement from 2011, when 41 percent of Michigan hospitals had mandatory flu vaccination policies. According to the survey respondents, HCP influenza vaccination coverage in hospitals with mandatory policies was 93 percent compared to 68 percent coverage in hospitals without mandatory policies. Forty hospitals have implemented mandatory policies since 2011.

The survey also shows significant progress with Tdap vaccination policies; 32 percent of respondents reported a mandatory Tdap vaccination policy for some or all HCP compared to 11 percent of hospitals in 2011. **Thank you for all of your hard work implementing and updating your vaccination policies.** While the survey shows that we are moving forward in Michigan, there is still room for improvement.

The 2013-2014 influenza season is the first season that **acute care hospitals must report [HCP influenza vaccination rates](#) via CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network as a condition for receiving full annual payment updates for services to Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries for the entire flu season.** This quality improvement measure assesses the percentage of HCP employed at each facility that received a flu vaccination, and the data will be made publicly available on the [Hospital Compare](#) website. In addition, a Joint Commission standard [took effect July 1, 2012](#), requiring all healthcare organizations accredited by The Joint Commission to establish an annual influenza vaccination program for licensed independent practitioners and staff.

Because of the strong evidence of the value of vaccinating HCP against influenza and pertussis, MDCH and MHA continue to encourage this practice. Hospital CEOs can significantly decrease the risk of influenza and pertussis in their facilities by ensuring hospital staff receive recommended vaccinations as outlined by best-practice guidelines.

Please protect your patients and staff from flu and pertussis by remembering HCP of all ages should be up-to-date with influenza and Tdap vaccination. Updated talking points regarding HCP vaccination for [influenza](#) and [pertussis](#) and sample policies for [influenza](#) and immunizations in general, including [Tdap](#), are available to assist in reviewing your facility's current vaccination policies and taking action.

If you have questions on available resources or materials, contact Stefanie DeVita, RN, MPH, Influenza Epidemiologist with the MDCH Division of Immunization, at (517) 335-3385. All other MHA-member questions should be directed to Sam R. Watson at the MHA at (517) 323-3443.

Sincerely,



Spencer Johnson
President
Michigan Health & Hospital Association



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